

REMARKS

Claims 1-41 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 6, 10, 15, 19, 24, 28, 33, and 37-41 are independent claims. Claims 1- 41 stand finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). The rejections are traversed.

Claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 13-16, 19, 22-25, 28, 31-33, 36, and 39-40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being deemed unpatentable over Maresco (U.S. Patent No. 6, 418,458) in view of Sullivan (U.S. Patent No. 5,438,680). Claims 2-3, 8-9, 11-12, 17-18, 20-21, 26-27, 29-30, and 34-35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being deemed unpatentable over Maresco in view of Sullivan and further in view of Najork et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,377,934.) Claims 37-38, and 41 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being deemed unpatentable over Maresco in view of Sullivan and further in view of Brenner et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0225815.) The cited references have been discussed in prior replies, which are incorporated herein.

The Applicant claims a method for processing computing tasks in a multithreaded computing environment. A plurality of worker threads are defined, each working thread capable of processing a task. A task space is defined as a plurality of task queues, where each task queue is capable of queuing a plurality of tasks and is associated with a respective worker thread. A task scheduler assigns a task amongst the task queues (and thus to worker threads) in an essentially random fashion.

Each independent claim is limited to each task queue being associated with “a respective worker thread.” It appears that the Office is not giving any weight to the term “respective” in the claims.

As previously discussed, Maresco discusses that a single task queue is shared by all workers in a work crew. Consequently, according to Maresco, each task queue would be associated with a plurality of worker threads. The Applicant’s use of the limitation “respective” precludes that interpretation.

The Applicant’s use of the limitation “respective” requires that no two worker threads can share a single task queue. Maresco teaches away from that limitation, by requiring that all worker threads in a work crew share a single task queue.

Furthermore, independent Claims 28, and 39-41 are written as means-plus-function claims. The Applicant believes that these claims should have a limited interpretation under 35 U.S.C. § 112, paragraph 6. The Office Action fails to discuss the Applicant's disclosed structures and where these structures are suggested by the cited references. If the Office believes otherwise, a detailed explanation would be appreciated.

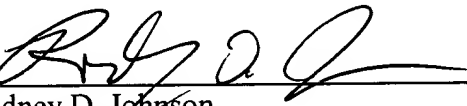
For the above reasons, the Office has failed to meet its burden to show a prima facie rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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